



ADEPT Draft NPPF consultation response summary

ADEPT's High-Level Summary

ADEPT welcomes the Government's ambition to modernise the planning system and supports the clearer structure proposed in the draft NPPF. Our response highlights the importance of maintaining locally led planning, ensuring that national policies provide a strong framework without limiting local flexibility or the ability to respond to specific place-based needs. We support measures that strengthen climate action, design quality, nature recovery, infrastructure planning and flood and water management, while noting where further clarity or proportionality would help implementation and avoid unintended impacts on local plans, evidence requirements and delivery. Overall, ADEPT is keen to work collaboratively with Government to refine the framework so it supports sustainable, resilient and well-designed places across all communities.

ADEPT's Overview of Key Messages

ADEPT welcomes the Government's ambition to modernise the planning system and supports the clearer structure proposed in the draft NPPF. Our response highlights the importance of maintaining locally led planning, ensuring national policy provides a strong and consistent framework while still allowing councils the flexibility to respond to the needs, opportunities and constraints of their places.

We support the principle behind Spatial Development Strategies, improved clarity in Local Plans, and proposals to raise standards in design, climate action, nature recovery, transport, digital connectivity and flood and water management. Across these areas, ADEPT emphasises that effective implementation will rely on clear, proportionate guidance and on aligning national requirements with local evidence, local capacity and the practical realities of plan-making and delivery.

ADEPT's feedback identifies where further clarification or adjustment would help ensure the reforms can be implemented smoothly. This includes:

- avoiding overly rigid national mechanisms that could reduce local responsiveness;
- ensuring evidence expectations are proportionate and achievable;
- supporting flexible, deliverable approaches to infrastructure and developer contributions;
- strengthening climate and nature-related policies where wording may unintentionally limit local ambition; and
- ensuring flood and water management policies are clear, evidence-led and practical for both major and minor development.

We welcome stronger national policy on SuDS, coastal change and naturalised watercourses, while noting areas where refinements would help ensure communities are well protected from surface water, coastal erosion and other flood risks.

Across the full draft NPPF, ADEPT is keen to work collaboratively with Government to refine the framework, so it provides stability, clarity and confidence for local authorities, developers and communities. Our shared goal is a planning system that supports sustainable growth, strengthens climate resilience, enhances local environments, and enables well-designed, well-connected and future-ready places.